As per the decisions of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has decided to auction upto 20 MHz of paired 3G spectrum in the 2.1 GHz band in the telecom service areas where 25 MHz or more paired spectrum is available One block has been allotted to BSNL/MTNL. In telecom service areas where less than 25 MHz paired spectrum is available in the 2.1 GHz band, the actual amount of available spectrum in blocks of 2 × 5 MHz per operator will be allotted.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and Ministry of Defence on 22nd May 2009, regarding the vacation of 3G spectrum. The Armed Forces will release the spectrum out of Defence usage, in a time bound manner as per the triggers of MoU.. Ministry of Defence has already vacated 10 MHz 3G spectrum, as per the MoU. The spectrum thus vacated by Defence also would be auctioned subject to a maximum of 4 blocks in each service area.

Transfer delay in S.B. and R.D. cases

765. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Post Master General, Delhi has received complaints about the serious delays being caused by the Post Master, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015 in transferring S.B., R.D. cases from his area to outside the U.T. to U.P. and other States;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted to fix responsibility of the staff and the supervisors for causing delay of months for the transfer of such cases from one circle to another;

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the delinquent staff and officers; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not taking action on such delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No complaints have been received in the office of Chief Postmaster General, Delhi Circle in 2009 regarding serious delay in transfer of SB/RD cases pertaining to Ramesh Nagar HO to other Postal Circles.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of above.

Post offices in Punjab

766. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sub-post offices in Punjab where all the services have been computerized and where the services have been computerized partially; and

(b) by when all such post offices are expected to be fully computerised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The services which have been computerized include Counter Service, Savings Bank, Electronic Money Order (eMO), Instant Money Order (iMO), International Money Transfer Services (IMTS), ePost, ePayment and Speednet services. In so far as Punjab Circle is concerned, 229 Sub Post Offices Offer all the computerized services while in 15 Sub Post Offices, only partial services have been computerized till 31.10.2009.

(b) There are a total of 787 Sub Post Offices in Punjab Circle. 244 Sub Post Offices were computerized till 2008-09. 174 Double handed Sub Post Offices have been supplied with hardware in the current year. In addition, 22 Head Post Offices in the Circle are computerized. For the rest, computerization of Post Office is an ongoing programme subject to availability of funds and technical feasibility.

Pulse war among phone service providers

767. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a pulse war among phone service providers;

(b) whether Government has made any assessment on this front for the years to come;

(c) the steps MTNL has taken to compete in this war of rates;

(d) whether it proposes to reduce the fixed line tariff, increase the number of free calls and reduce the rate of calls to promote the ever increasing desertation of fixed line phones; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Regulation of Tariff has been mandated to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) *vide* TRAI Act of 1997. The TRAI, in exercise of its powers, has issued Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 (as amended from time to time), which lays down the framework for Tariff for telecom services in the country. As per the existing provisions of TTO, tariff for telecom services are under forbearance except with regard to Fixed Line Service in Rural Areas, National Roaming service and Leased Line Service. Thus, the Service Providers have the flexibility to offer any tariff or combination of tariff including Pulse Rates to their subscribers in a competitive manner.

(c) MTNL is offering competitive and affordable tariff plans to compete with other service providers. It also revises its tariff plans from time to timers per prevailing market conditions.